

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 1, 2004, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire July 1, 2004.

Applicants' Claim 2, as amended, now recites in part:

wherein at least one of the 180 degree phase-shifting regions comprises multiple regions in which at least two regions have different phase or transmission.

Similarly, Applicants' Claim 4, as amended, now recites in part:

wherein at least one of the second phase-shifting regions comprises multiple regions in which at least two regions have different phase or transmission.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ferguson fails to disclose or suggest these limitations.

Ferguson does teach that while one method of performing the coarse adjustment biases is through the application of an automated CAD system, which may include sophisticated pattern-dependent correction schemes analogous to optical proximity correction (OPC) algorithms, another embodiment includes the design manipulation occurring via manual designer intervention, such as may be the case of a DRAM cell pattern, wherein a single instance of a pattern is hierarchically replicated many times across the mask. Col. 7, line 65 to col. 8, line 6. However, this passage teaches nothing about a phase-shifting region including multiple regions in which at least two regions have different phase or transmission. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2 and 4.

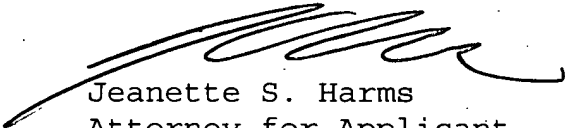
CONCLUSION

Claims 2 and 4 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer No.: 29477



Jeanette S. Harms
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 35,537

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 22, 2004.

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Date

Rebecca A. Baumann
Signature: Rebecca A. Baumann